

**From:** Groombridge, Kenton A CW2 DISCOM  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/3/01 9:58am  
**Subject:** Comments on MS/DOJ settlement

Hi,

Just want to give my comments on the Microsoft/DOJ settlement.

It really sounds to me that Microsoft came out the winner with this one. Where else could a designated monopoly actually get more of a monopoly by supplying more software as a punishment.

Take a look at Red Hat's offering to provide its Linux operating system at no cost and let Microsoft provide the hardware. This is a much better solution.

The anti-trust/monopoly case wouldn't be necessary if the Government would just adopt plans/policies to purchase proprietary software solutions.

Initiate a plan/policy to only purchase software that has open standards. This way other companies can compete and we all get better products at better costs. Microsoft ensures that its products only work with other Microsoft products so it can maintain its dominance. Why do you think that every time a new Microsoft Office suite comes out that it doesn't work with the previous versions? It forces others to buy the upgrades so they can read the new formats. An example: We are currently using Office 97. My boss loads Office 2000 and starts creating documents. He sends the to me to edit/read/etc, but I can't open them because they were created with the "new" format. He doesn't want to delete and reload Office 97. He is going to make everybody else load Office 2000. On top of that, Microsoft doesn't share the format of Office 2000 documents so the only software that will work with Office 2000 documents is Office 2000.

By using open standards, everybody can compete. Isn't this the American way? It isn't so much of what Microsoft does, but the Government shouldn't be buying in on it. The Government must use open standards. This will set the example and Microsoft will adjust to this. Punishment and policies will not change them.

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Failure is not an option; it's bundled with your software.